

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification as amended below with replacement paragraphs shows added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strike-through~~.

Please AMEND the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 7, with the following paragraph:

Further, by switching the branch prediction table among those 24-1 through 24-n according to the program count value, it is possible to perform branch ~~perdition~~-prediction control according to the program position.

Please AMEND the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 19, with the following paragraph:

Thereby, it is possible to change strength of prediction at a time of initialization, and to perform an optimum-~~perdition~~-prediction. Accordingly, it is possible to improve a probability that branch prediction makes a hit.

Please AMEND the paragraph beginning at page 24, line 18, with the following paragraph:

Then, the tag information 138 of the thus-obtained entry of the branch prediction table of the branch prediction storing part 134 is examined. Then, the past process information which was used in producing the ~~perdition~~-prediction information is obtained therefrom.

Please AMEND the paragraph beginning at page 25, line 16 with the following paragraph:

When it is recognized from the comparison result of the tag information 138 that the processes do not coincide with one another, it is determined whether or ~~nor~~-not prediction information is specified in the branch instruction. When prediction information is specified in the branch instruction, the branch prediction table of the branch prediction storage part 134 is updated according to the specified branch information.